

Ice Cream Delight

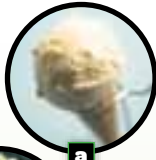
What's your flavour? The unusual world of ice cream. By Patrick Howarth

ANSWERS ON PAGE 45

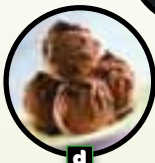
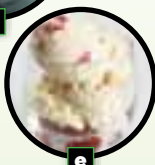
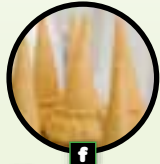
1 Pre-reading

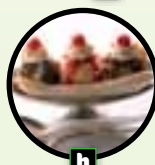
Match the "ice cream" words (1 to 8) to the pictures (a-h).

1. Chocolate ice cream ☐
2. Strawberry ice cream ☐
3. Vanilla ice cream ☐
4. A scoop of ice cream ☐
5. Raspberry ripple ☐
6. An ice cream cone ☐
7. A banana split ☐
8. A tub of ice cream ☐


a

b

c

d

e

f

g

h

2 Reading I

How many ice cream flavours can you think of in 2 minutes? Think. Then, read the article to compare your ideas.

3 Reading II

Read the article again and answer the questions.

1. When was ice cream invented?
2. When did the first ice cream parlour open in the US?
3. How much is the ice cream industry worth?
4. Where is the ice cream flavour "rocky road" popular?
5. Where is the ice cream flavour "rum and raisin" popular?
6. In which country is horsemeat ice cream popular?
7. In which country can you find foie gras ice cream?
8. Where's the shop that has more than 860 flavours?

4 Language focus

Verb Tenses

This is a revision lesson. Look through the reading and see if you can find examples of the following tenses.

1. The Present Simple
2. The Past Simple
3. The Present Perfect

5 Discussion

1. What's your favourite dessert?
2. What's your favourite flavour of ice cream?
Which flavour from this page would you like to try?
3. What do you like to eat ice cream with?

What's your favourite dessert? Ice cream often appears at the top in opinion polls. But why?

Ice cream has had a long history. Its origins go back to about 60 AD, when the Roman emperor Nero would order ice to be brought from the mountains. Later, he would combine the ice with fruit toppings. In the 13th century, Marco Polo learned of the Chinese method of creating ice and milk mixtures and took this back to Europe. The first ice cream parlour in America opened in New York City in 1776. And since then, ice cream has developed into the delicious dessert we know and love.

There's no denying that ice cream is popular. It's an \$11 billion retail industry, and it's popular all over the world, with the US, New Zealand, Denmark, Australia, Belgium, Sweden, Canada, Norway, Ireland and Switzerland being the top consumers in terms of consumption per head.

The great thing about ice cream is that there are so many different flavours. There are simple ones such as chocolate, strawberry and vanilla. Or mixed flavours such as "rum and raisin" (vanilla, rum and raisins), "rocky road" (chocolate, nuts and marshmallow), "raspberry ripple" (vanilla and raspberry syrup), and "cookies and cream" (sweet cream and chocolate cookies).

Each country seems to have its favourite flavours. In the US, "rocky road" and "cookies and cream" are popular; whereas in the UK, it's "rum & raisin" and "raspberry ripple". They're all tasty, but some countries have some decidedly strange flavours. In Japan you can get "horsemeat ice cream". It's called Basashi Ice and it's made with real horse meat. Some Japanese ice cream parlours also offer "whale", "eel", "octopus" and "squid ink" ice creams (the squid ink one is black). However, the strangest Japanese ice cream flavour of all has to be Pit Viper, which is made from the venom of the poisonous viper snake.

But there's more. In America you can try a scoop of "Cold Sweat", an ice cream made with jalapeño peppers and other hot chillies. It's supposed to be VERY spicy. If you want a really luxurious ice cream, go to France to try Philippe Faur's "foie gras ice cream" made with goose livers. It costs about \$150 a tub. For a smelly ice cream, try Britain's "Seriously Stilton", with 25% of it consisting of blue stilton cheese. Amazingly, it's very popular.

But if you're looking for a really wide selection, you'll need to go to the town of Merida in Venezuela. This is where you can find Coromoto, the ice cream shop with the most flavours in the world. On a typical day, they offer 60 flavours, but these are changed regularly so every time a customer visits, there's a new one to try. In total, the shop has more than 860 flavours, including tropical fruit flavours such as "guava", "papaya" and "mango", and some more unusual flavours such as "avocado", "mushrooms in wine", "onion", "beef" and "garlic". However, the strangest of all must be the "sardines in brandy".

So, next time you fancy an ice cream what are you going to ask for? Boring old chocolate, or something new and exciting such as "squid ink"? Chocolate for me, please. 🍫

